

Dear Members of the County Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed funding for Burtonsville Elementary (BES) in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). My name is Angela Brimage, and I am a mother of two boys who have gone to or are currently enrolled in Burtonsville Elementary School.

BES has been overlooked in funding for many years and it is time to change this. There are many reasons why the school needs funding. I do parent pick up for my current 3rd grader as well as volunteer to help with drop off in the morning. The current infrastructure cannot accommodate pedestrian, car, and bus traffic in a safe manner. The parking lot that you must loop around is small and in need of repair. It is not meant for a parent pick up and is not safe. Another reason is due to overcapacity. Last year I had a son in 5th grade, and he was crammed in the portables. The ebb and flow of class sizes and community growth has created issues. The school should be able to accommodate the growing community. Another issue is that the kids cannot have an all-school assembly at BES. They do not have the space. Assemblies are important. They bring the school together for shared information and create a sense of school pride and togetherness. The cafeteria is small and the difference between the first lunch and last lunch is ridiculous. Some kids eat lunch before 11am and then others must wait until after 1pm. The school needs funding to grow along with our growing community. I moved to Burtonsville when I found out I was pregnant with my now 12-year-old. The community welcomed me. The staff at Burtonsville Elementary School welcomed me when I sent my first off to Kindergarten. They have been incredible. I always have felt I can talk to any of my kid's teachers or talk to Mrs. Lloyd if I have any questions. They work hard and provide everything they can to allow my two boys to excel. It is time that we provide them with the tools necessary to continue to do their job. Burtonsville is growing and developing. The community needs BES to do the same. We live in a very special area. It deserves recognition. It deserves to have a school that is at least equal to the oldest school in other prominent counties, which it is not.

I urge the county council to allocate the necessary funds to make this project a reality. Providing students with a safe and modern learning environment is a top priority, and I believe that this new school will have a lasting positive impact on the students, teachers, and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Brimage